



SEP 18 2006

Dkt. 62166/JPW/MVM

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Thomas M. Jessell et al.

Serial No.: 09/654,462 Group Art Unit: 1632

Filed : September 1, 2000 Examiner: A. Falk, Ph.D.

For : GENETIC DEMONSTRATION OF REQUIREMENT FOR NKX6.1  
AND NKX2.2 IN VENTRAL NEURON GENERATION

1185 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, New York 10036  
September 12, 2006

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**FILED WITH A CORRESPONDING REQUEST**  
**FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.114**

Applicants hereby submit this request for continued examination ("RCE") including a Preliminary Amendment in connection with the above-identified patent application. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114(a), prior to the filing of a Notice of Appeal, an applicant may file an RCE of an application including the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) so as to file a submission such as an amendment to the claims.

A Final Office Action was issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") on March 13, 2006 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the March 13, 2006 Final Office Action was due June 13, 2006. Applicants are concurrently filing a Petition For Three-Month Extension Of Time. Therefore, a Notice of Appeal is now due September 13, 2006. In lieu of filing a Notice of Appeal, applicants are filing an RCE in order to submit this Preliminary Amendment which addresses the rejections set forth in the March 13, 2006 Final Office Action.

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Accordingly, this RCE and Preliminary Amendment are being timely filed.

Please amend the subject application as follows: